

## Aaron Venable Brown to Andrew Jackson, August 8, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>AARON V. BROWN TO JACKSON. 1

1 Aaron Venable Brown, M.C. from Tennessee 1839–1845; governor of Tennessee 1845–1847; Postmaster General under Buchanan 1857–1859.

Washington, August 8, 1841.

Dear Genl, You have no doubt observed all that was said and done on the Bank Bill in the Senate. During the last week it has been before the House. Taken up on monday and notice given that discussion on it should cease on Friday following—four days only for the great measure of the Session. The majority were inexorable and 4 days were all allowed for discussion. Thus our Debaters occupied fully half of the period leaving only two Days for the Speakers in opposition to the measure. Old Mr. Adams, the greatest political sinner of the age, tried several amendments, which were refused and he got mad (which you know he can easily do) turned against the Bill and finally voted against it on the ayes and noes. Tom Marshall Mr. Clays own Representative, moved to strike out the compromise section (16) which you will remember was offered by Mr. Clay himself, and made an eloquent speech against it and denounced it as a gross fraud attempted to be perpetrated on the intelligence of the House and of the age. In conversations out of the House he is said to be very violent on his observations against Mr. C. I mention these facts to you only as a part of the history of the passage of the Bill in our house and to shew you that dissention and disaffection in the Whig ranks has entered into the very heart and come home to the allmost domestic circles of their great Leader.

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The Bill passed late on Friday. 2 on Saturday it was presented to Mr. Tyler who desired the gentleman to note the precise hour of its delivery. "Will he veto it" is asked by every one. Both parties seem confident as to his course. My own opinion is that he will veto but I fear not absolute enough to avoid an amendment to obviate his objections. His friends (Wise Gilmer Hunter and Co.) 3 insist that he will put down the measure entirely at the present Session. If he does what becomes of his

2 The bill for incorporating in the District of Columbia the Fiscal Bank of the United States was passed by the Senate July 27, and by the House August 6. Tyler vetoed it.

3 Henry A. Wise, Thomas W. Gilmer, and R. M. T. Hunter, all of Virginia.

class=MsoNormal>0142 118 Cabinet? It is believed by many that he will blow up at least the Clay portion of it—and tolerate the balance a while longer. The Joke here is that he is using Webster now as you did the State Banks for a while only "to break down Clays Bank." Not that Mr. Webster is anti-Bank but that he is anti- Clay -Bank. In the Discussion, in both houses, your name and policy is of course perpetually introduced, but I perceive without bitterness , except when some nameless member, wishes to make up in zeal what he lacks in understanding.

Your old friend Dr. Lynn 4 is ever ready and occasionally rebukes your calumniators, in a most withering manner. I notice too that Mr. Calhoun very promptly explained and justified your opinions on the distribution question against the attacks of Mr. Clay and I hope I shall be excused for saying that he (Mr. Calhoun) in his conversation habitually avoids saying anything disrespectful in relation to you. Your very sincere and sagacious friend Wright 5 of N. York says he sees in the signs of the times, unerring indications that the people after all are in favor of the great measures, which distinguished your administration. I should have written repeatedly throughout the session, but I was reluctant to intrude on your retirement and will not on that account trouble you with any answer to this letter, but remain as ever your sincere friend

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4 Lewis F. Linn, senator from Missouri 1833–1843.

5 Silas Wright, senator from New York 1833–1844.